

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 IO-14 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06

COME-00 AGR-20 EUR-25 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 USIA-15 SWF-02 /203 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3912

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH FLOOD ASSESSMENT

REFS: A. STATE 170778; B. DACCA 3514

1. REF B REMAINS VALID WITH NOTE THAT FLOOD LEVELS HAVE REMAINED
ROUGHLY STATIC PAST THREE DAYS EXCEPT FOR NORMAL DOWNSTREAM

PROGRESSION OF CRESTS WHICH HAVE CAUSED ADDITIONAL DAMAGE.

2. TWO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ON AUGUST 06 ONE OF MISSION TEAM WITH
IBRD AND OTHER DONOR REPS AND ANOTHER OF THE AMBASSADOR WITH
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION, HAVE REINFORCED FOLLOWING
MISSION VIEWS:

A. BDG DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT FLOODS ARE BEING MAXIMIZED SO
THAT EMERGENCY RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING OVERSTATED.
B. PROLONGED DURATION AND EXTENT OF FLOODS WILL RESULT IN
CONSIDERABLE LOSSES WHICH WILL COMPOUND OTHER ECONOMIC ILLS AND
POINT TO SEVERE NEEDS BY THE END OF THE YEAR; FINAL LEVELS OF
THESE NEEDS MAY NOT BE ASSESSABLE UNTIL FULL EXPOSURE AT
CONSORTIUM MEETINGS;

C. BARRING SEVERE WORSENING IN SITUATION, ANY MAJOR US

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ASSISTANCE SHOULD, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AVOID EMERGENCY RELIEF

BASIS AND BE BASED ON DEMONSTRATED NEEDS AND PLACED IN A DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING METHODS OF ASSISTANCE WILL FOLLOW.

3. FOR MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ALI, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT FLOOD SITUATION, AS EVIDENCED BY OUR CONTRIBUTION TO PRIME MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND, AND HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING IT CLOSELY WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE NEED FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE;

B. WE AND OTHER DONORS REQUIRE MAXIMUM COOPERATION FROM BDG IN OBTAINING SPECIFIC DATA ON RAINFALL AND FLOODS, DAMAGE, REQUIREMENTS, ANACTIONS TAKEN BY BDG, TO JUSTIFY ANY DONOR RESPONSES. SUCH INFORMATION HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN FROM THE BDG THUS FAR;

C. WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE, AND OTHER DONORS AND VOLAGS, WANT TO PURSUE ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES THAT PRIMARILY HAVE A DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT, I.E., SEED AND REPLANTING INPUTS, FOOD OR CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMS, SUPPORT OF COOPERATIVE REHABILITATION EFFORTS, ETC.

D. WE WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE NEED FOR TITLE II FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE.

FYI: IT IS OUR BEST GUESS AT PRESENT THAT WE WILL BE RECOMMENDING, WHEN WE HAVE MORE COMPLETE DATA, PROVISION OF PL 480 FOOD-GRAINS IN SOME MAGNITUDE AND, AS SUGGESTED C ABOVE, SOME SPECIALIZED RELIEF/DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE.

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